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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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November 19, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Site Inspection, Native Asphalt Company Mine, Cameron #1 Mine, S/047/036, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 25, 1991  
Time of Inspection: 7:30 to 7:45 p.m.  
Conditions: Cool, cloudy  
Participants: Tony Gallegos, Holland Shepherd DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Evaluate recent reclamation work performed by operator.

The operator of the Cameron #1 mine recently informed the Division that some reclamation work had been performed at the site. The work was performed in hopes of maintaining the operation's current small mine status.

The reclamation work consisted of regrading a hillside, located at the northeast portion of the site. The hillside had been scalped earlier for materials to blend with the tar sands being quarried at the site. The reclamation was found to be unsatisfactory, due to the lack of erosion control and soil amendments. When the hillside was originally scalped, the operator salvaged topsoil material, but it was not obvious whether or not this material had been used to reclaim the hillside. It appears that additional soil amendments will have to be used to obtain adequate reclamation of the hillside. Also, in attempting to improve the drainage qualities of the site the operator ripped the hillside down the run of the slope instead of along the contour.

Another area of greater concern, involves the proximity of the tar sands pit to a perennial stream and seep area on-site. The Division had previously requested that the operator insure that the pit disturbance remain removed from this sensitive area and that natural drainage waters be routed away from this area. The most immediate problem is degradation of the spring waters with oils and slimes generated from the tar sands pit.

The operator has disregarded our request and extended the pit into an area which places it in direct contact with the



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perennial stream. The operator has constructed a makeshift ditch to catch seep waters, that had at one time entered the pit. These waters still commingle with pit material.

On September 5, 1990 a non-compliance letter was written to the operator listing several items which were out of compliance. The water degradation problem is one, another is the fact that the total disturbance was found to be greater than 5 acres (approximately 7.5 acres), which will require the filing of a large mine notice of intent.

During a follow-up inspection, last October of 1990, individuals representing the Army Corp of Engineers, the Division of Water Rights, the operator and DOGM, met on-site to discuss the issue of a small wetlands area being impacted on the site. Since that meeting the operator has constructed diversions on-site to prevent clean waters from entering the pit then exiting on the southwest side. However, as described above, mining impacts are still affecting the natural and perennial drainage found on this site.

Because of the continuing problems regarding impacts to the wetlands area and perennial stream by this operation, I recommend that a letter of Non-Compliance be sent to the operator identifying the pit and stream area, as an area of non-compliance.

In the discussion in our October 15, 1990 memo, we mentioned that a meeting should be scheduled to discuss these problems at the Native Asphalt site. These meetings never took place. They should no doubt be scheduled, as the problems still exist.

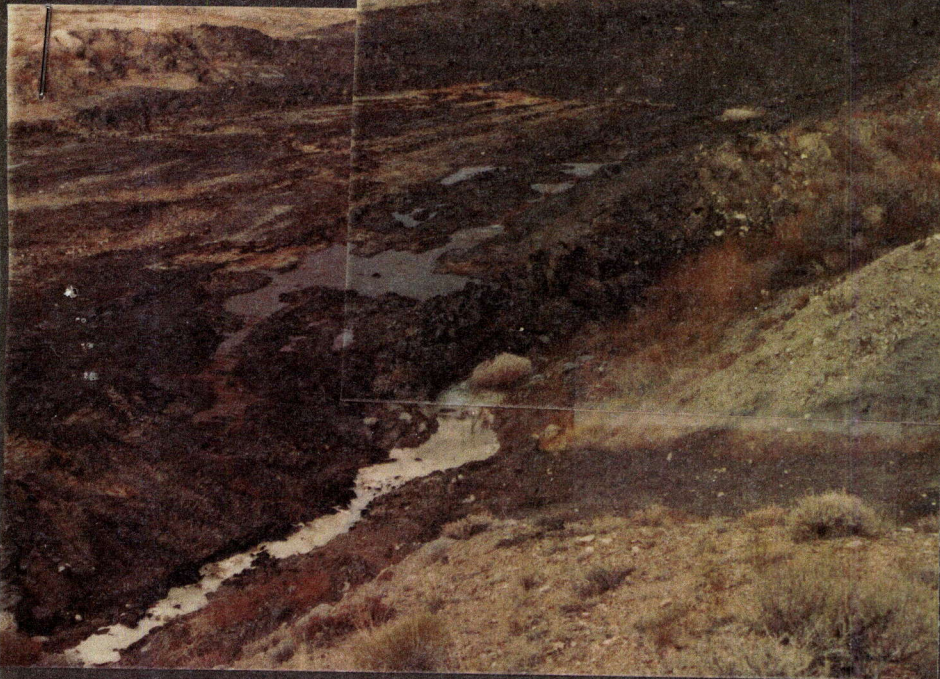
Based on the outcome of the operator's previous attempts at reclamation, I also recommend that the operator be asked to submit plans for any further reclamation work to be performed on the site, and that no approval be made for any of the work already performed. These plans should be incorporated into an overall large mine plan, which now needs to be required, especially since the operator has recently submitted another SMO for the same area. Also it is important that the Division obtain a bond from this operator, as Native Asphalt Company has proven their inability to perform adequate reclamation and prevent environmental damage at this site.

jb  
cc: Wayne Hedberg  
Tony Gallegos  
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Cameron # 1 Mine

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10-25-91

Impacts to perennial  
stream channel, spring  
area, and riparian area

